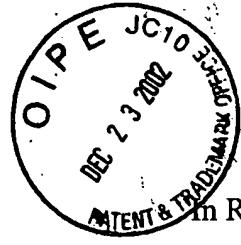


PATENTS
15311-2292



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re The Application of:
Samuel H. Duncan et al.
Serial No.: 09/944,515
Filed: August 31, 2001
For: PASSIVE RELEASE AVOIDANCE
TECHNIQUE

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Art Unit: 2183

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I hereby certify that the following Information-Disclosure Statement is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 16, 2002.

Safiya Jarvis

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION-DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In keeping with the duty of candor and good faith owed to the Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention the references listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed reference is enclosed.

PATENTS
15311-2292

To the extent required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), Applicants have described what they consider to be the relevance of any foreign-language reference. The Office may find additionally relevant material in these or other references.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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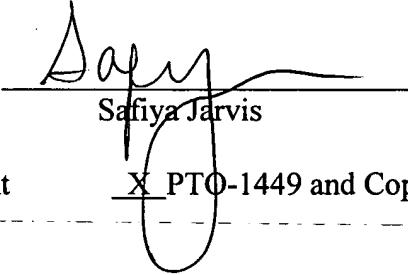
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PTO-1449 and Copies of References